

FROM THE INTERIM EDITOR'S DESK

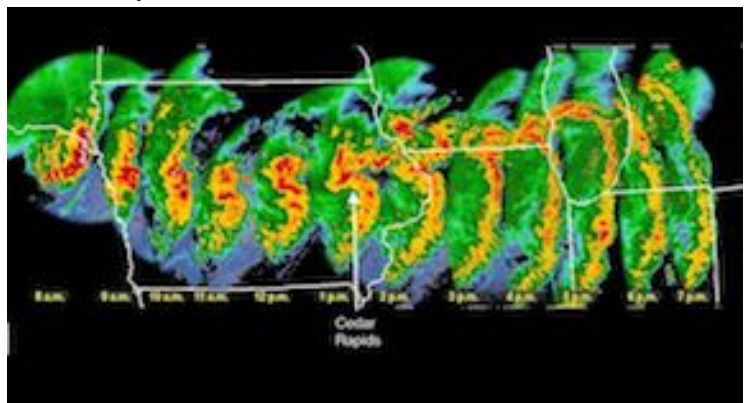
Chris Dahle, BU 1269

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, I have been staying home. As I was working on this edition of *Biophilately*, here in Iowa we experienced a very unusual weather event. Known as a Derecho, the thunderstorm produced winds of 120 to 140 miles per hour (190 to 225 kph) equal in force to a category 3 or 4 hurricane! There was measurement of wind at 124 mph and an estimate, due to damage to structures, of 140 mph. The storm swept across the whole state of Iowa and through Illinois and Indiana into Ohio (see Timeline in figure). But the highest intensity and the longest duration was in eastern Iowa. The storm left behind monumental destruction in terms of homes and businesses damaged or destroyed, and crops and vegetation of all kinds was broken or flattened. Most of the old oak trees in our back yard lost their tops. Electricity was off for 4 to 16 days in the city of Cedar Rapids. Internet connections had not been completely restored after 18 days.

The National Weather Service provides this definition:

A derecho (pronounced similar to "deh-REY-cho") is a widespread, long-lived wind storm that is associated with a band of rapidly moving showers or thunderstorms. Although a derecho can produce destruction similar to the strength of tornadoes, the damage typically is directed in one direction along a relatively straight swath. As a result, the term "straight-line wind damage" sometimes is used to describe derecho damage. By definition, if the wind damage swath extends more than 240 miles (about 400 kilometers) and includes wind gusts of at least 58 mph (93 km/h) or greater along most of its length, then the event may be classified as a derecho.

<https://www.weather.gov/lmk/derecho>



Timeline of the radar images of the derecho storm August 10, 2020 through Iowa, Illinois and Indiana.

So I missed out on the Virtual Stamp Show that the APS and ATA hosted during the time when there was supposed to be a show in Hartford. It was still cleanup and recovery mode around here, even though I did have power and internet once again.

As our president points out, we are still looking for a volunteer to come forward to edit *Biophilately*. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact me at chris-dahle@biophilately.org.

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